

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

 Thursday, April 28. 1709.

MY Last address'd it self to the *Jacobite* Gentlemen of *Britain*; and really this seems so critical a Juncture to work upon their Reason, that I cannot but go on a little to expostulate with them—And I shall argue with them from two Points only.

1. The Lenity and Clemency of the Government to them.
2. The apparent Improbability of compassing their Designs.

I cannot think, railing at them and reproaching them at all the proper Method of treating them; His Language is none of my Element, I shall use them as Christians,

as Gentlemen, as *Britains*; and let their Designs have been what they will against us, I shall not revile them: My Design is, if possible, to restore them to their Country and to the Government, to themselves and to their Friends. This I shall do by endeavouring to show them their Mistake, in taking up the sinking Cause they have adher'd to; or if that may not be, by showing them the Error of their Politicks, in persisting in it, when it is most apparent, they can never obtain the End they aim at. No wise Man will play on a lost Game; no good Sailer will stay in a sinking Ship, but quit it in Time, lest he be ingulph'd in her going down, and it be too late to escape.

The

The Gentlemen, I am speaking to, are far from *Fools*—I mean, they are not Men of Ignorance, in publick Affairs or in Politicks; indeed every Mistake may be call'd Folly in some Sense, but they are not Men imperceptible of things; they are not blind to the State of *Europe*: I shall treat them therefore as Men of Judgment and Men of Reason; if they deprive themselves of the Use of that Reason or Judgment by their Prejudices, and by too warmly espousing the Cause they embark in, that is not my Fault—However, *whether they will bear, or whether they will forbear*, as the Prophet of Old was commanded to speak to the People, so shall I; if they are not convinc'd of their Mistake by it, others shall be convinc'd, that they will be inexcusable in the Pursuit, and unpity'd in the Event.

And first I shall argue from the Lenity and Clemency of the Government—Men of Sense and Men of Honour can never long resist the Importunities of Gratitude and Kindness—An Enemy, that has any Principles of Generosity, when Force has not been able to reduce him, will be won with Acts of Goodness—Now, Gentlemen, here is a Government, that like Heaven has strove to conquer you with Mercy, when at the same time it is evident to your selves—It wants not Power to reduce you by Force.

In the Infancy of the War you might, and warmly enough you did, despise the Power of the Government, and depend upon your recovering your Cause by the Arms of your Confederates, and loudly we were threatned with Re-revolutions, Retribution, and the like, and G.O.D knows how many the Hopes of this made *Jacobites*, who, but for that Defusion, had never espoused the Cause—But, Gentlemen, it is four Years at least, since your own Reason could not but dictate to you a certain Defect of Power, and that your Cause must have something miraculous to recover it—And ever since that, you may have been led to sin against the Goodness of the Government, not against its Power.

To enforce this; it is apparent, that the greater the Government has grown, the more Victories it has obtain'd over its

Enemies, the firmer it has been establish'd—The more it has grown above the Fear or Apprehension of being over-turn'd, the greater and the farther has this Clemency been extended. In other Cases, where Power has been unable to reduce an Enemy in its own Bowels, it has politickly born with their Insults, till a fairer Occasion of Punishment has presented; and then, as Victory and Success has crown'd its Endeavour, it has let them see, it only wanted Power to punish before, and has fully reveng'd it self, according to the Example of Scripture, to bring those People, who would not have this Man to reign over them, and slay them before him. But the present Government has dealt otherwise with you; as Success and Victory have encreas'd it: Power, Mercy has encreas'd: The Clemency of this Reign to the most inveterate Opposers of the Constitution, would require a long History to recite it; and let me tell the Gentlemen of that Party, should the Insults and Provocations of the *Jacobite* Party to the Government be set down at the same time, and plac'd against the Lenity and Forbearance of the Government, Posterity would blush for them, to think how they could act against a Power that treated them in such a Manner. Take a Sketch of *Jacobitism*, as it has respected the Behaviour of the Party to the Government, and as it regards the Behaviour of the Government to them, and judge for your selves, Gentlemen, whether, had you been in the Government's Place, you could have born it.

How in the private Meetings of their Worship, they have not only left out the Prayers for the Queen, but openly pray'd for the restoring and establishing her Enemy, whom they have always given the Stile and Title of the Dominions of her Majesty, under whose Protection they liv'd.

How in their Prints and Writings they have branded the establish'd Churches of *England* and *Scotland* as Schismatick and Illegal, and prescrib'd the Church of *England* to the Exaufterate Bishops, Clergy, &c. and such of their Adherents as have rejected the Government.

How they have publickly avow'd the Doctrine of Divine Right, inherent in the Persons

Person and Line of their Kings, maintaining directly thereby, that the Queen was an Usurper, the Revolution a manifest Rebellion, and the Legal Right of limiting the Succession establish'd in the Parliament of Britain, a Diabolical Invasion of the Divine Institution.

How they have in all their publick Conversation drank Healths to the Pretender, Confusion to the Revolution, Succession, Union, and all the Branches of the Establish'd Constitution, visibly rejoyc'd at *French* Victories, and appear'd Chagrin at the Successes of the Government; kept as a Day of Rejoicing the Anniversary of the Pretender's Birth, and openly refus'd to joyn in publick Fasts for Success of the Confederate Armies, or in publick Thanksgiving for Successes when obtain'd.

How they have invited over a *French* Popish Power to reestablish their Cause in Scotland, have visibly encourag'd the Invasion of their Country, and done their Endeavour to involve a peaceable Nation in Blood and Destruction.

I do not think, I wrong any Man that is profestly *Jacobite*, in saying, that *quat. Jacobite*, he has either directly or obliquely, profestly or tacitly, been concern'd in all these Heads. I forbear to aggravate or enlarge on Things, nor am I satyrizing Persons, and therefore descend no more to Particulars. — Let us now enquire, what has been the Treatment the Government has shewn them under all this.

Upon all Occasions, wherein they have lain open to Justice, we find as few of them suffering as possible; in Plots, in Correspondence with Enemies, in betraying our Councils, in Invasions, in Tumults and Riots, in Pamphlets and seditious Writings, in furious Preachings; in short, all their Excursions, wherein the Law could take hold of them, and in which the Government had it in their Power to punish, all the Tenderness in the World has been used towards them. — The very Sentences of the Law have not been executed; how many have been pardon'd, how few punish'd; in the Assassination of King *William*, how few were put to Death, and none but such as against whom there was no other Defence? In the Tu-

mults about the Union in *Septland*, not one Man suffer'd; in the Invasion, not a Drop of Blood yet spilt. — And at last, to crown all, and make the Work of Royal Mercy compleat, unask'd, unexpected, and I am sorry to say it, too much unthank'd, her Majesty has of her own Native Clemency, and to try if they may at last be prevail'd on to bethink themselves, granted a general, full and free Pardon. — All Invasions from abroad, Insults and Confederacies at home; all the undutiful Behaviour, the Espousing a Foreign Interest, and Affronts to the Government; in short all Kinds and Consequences of Jacobitism and Disaffection, are forgotten and forgiven. — Thus the Queen heaps Coals of Fire upon their Heads, and loads them with the just Reproach of inimitable Ingratitude. — Her Majesty has made the worst Enemy, the most inveterate profess'd Traytor, perfectly easie; By-gons are By-gons, all Resentment is laid asleep, all Crime obliterated, black Criminals are wash'd white, the old Score of Treason, Faction, Disaffection, and Anti-Revolutioning is wip'd out, and the Gentlemen are now at Liberty to tick for more.

Will any Excuse, *after this*, be left to a Party to oppose this Government? Is it possible, the Queen could do more to oblige them, than to make them easie under all their State-Apprehensions, and frankly remit all their Follies? — What can be expected after this, if Men will renew their Opposition? — I hinted already, that the Clemency of the Government should not be expected to last always, that a Time would come, when the leaden Feet of Justice would come up with a continued offending Party, and they cannot have the Face to expect more Patience in a Nation, that has already so long labour'd under the Disease of their Disaffection.

The Queen has strove to conquer you all with Clemency and Kindness; pray, Gentlemen, examine, what End can her Majesty propose to her self in it. — 'Tis plain, Power is not wanting to crush you; of which by it self. — 'Tis plain, it is by no Means in Apprehension of your Party, which is now grown contemptible and despicable

picable to the last Degree——It must be to win you, and if possible to persuade you to see and know your own Happiness, and prevail upon you to return to your Duty, and restore you selves to your Country.

If then there is any Honour, any Gratitude, any Sense of Kindness in *Jacobitism*, nay, if any Prudence, any Policy, any Wisdom, any Sense of Danger, any Sense of Interest——Gentlemen *Jacobites*, you will now come in——Pray, will you cast your Eyes about you in the World?——From whence must your Hopes come? From what Quarter of the World must your Help appear? Miracles indeed may be wrought, but Human Affairs view'd with Human Wisdom offer no Prospect. Look to the Right Hand, and to the Left; *French Power*, on which you rested, is broken——Home Distractions, which you have in vain try'd, are decreas'd——Peace is at hand abroad, Union is settled at home——Whither can you look?——Will you look up, Heaven has declar'd against you! Will you look down, Hell submits, and can no longer uphold *French Exorbitance*, by which it promis'd you Relief! Will you look at home, your Number is small, your Party discourag'd, poor, and ill cemented, and you have no Power! Will you look abroad, your Enemies prosper! At home you have no Force, abroad no Friends! For your own Sake, Gentlemen, come in——And do it now, for this is the last Time of Asking.

This Weakness of your Friends and Supporters abroad leads me to the *second Argument*, viz. The apparent Improbability of compassing their Designs. Which I shall speak to in my next.

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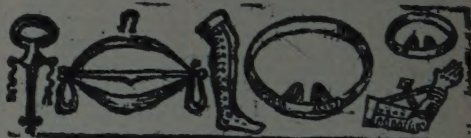
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